



FT. PIERCE • PORT ST. LUCIE

✦ *St. Lucie County* ✦  
*Florida*

*Discover  
New Business  
Horizons*



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## A Growing Opportunity

**D**iscover the boundless business opportunities found in St. Lucie County, one of the nation's best places to grow. Here, growth, innovation and inspiration are driven by the unsurpassed lifestyle of this peaceful paradise, found at the heart of Southeast Florida's acclaimed Treasure Coast.

Strategically located, St. Lucie is in the middle of Florida's largest business centers. Just 120 miles north of Miami, 60 miles north of West Palm Beach, 120 miles southeast of Orlando and 225 miles south of Jacksonville—yet a world away in spirit. The county features tremendous growth, a young and educated workforce, established infrastructure and a pro-business government. St. Lucie County's 572 square miles contain two major cities, Fort Pierce in the north and Port St. Lucie in the south. Beautiful Hutchinson Island and several hometown-style development communities also contribute to this unique business environment.

### Population Projections

	St. Lucie County	Population Within 150-Mile Radius
2010	308,000	16,241,300
2015	368,600	17,612,200
2020	430,500	19,070,100

In 2005, St. Lucie County's population was 240,039, the 2nd fastest growing county in Florida and the 13th fastest growing county in the nation. The county experienced a 6.3 percent population increase between 2004 and 2005, was named a top 10 "boomtown" by *Inc.* magazine in 2006 and the Milken Institute ranked the city of Port St. Lucie among "America's Top Performing Cities" for 2005 job growth. All signs suggest that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. As the population persists in its great growth, St. Lucie will become an even better place to do business and has positioned some economic sectors for even higher levels of success.

### Port St. Lucie

Only incorporated in 1961, Port St. Lucie has quickly risen to prominence as a place of rapid growth matched with an exceptional quality of life. Port St. Lucie was Florida's fastest growing city in 2005, with an 11 percent population increase between 2004 and 2005. It boasts a wide array of business developments, as well as recreational amenities including the renowned PGA Village and New York Mets Spring Training. In 2004, Port St. Lucie also ranked as the 2nd-safest city in Florida and the 24th safest city in the United States in a national study—making it an even safer business decision.

### Fort Pierce

Fort Pierce is one of the oldest communities on the east coast of Florida. Incorporated in 1901, the city grew from 300 residents to over 38,000 (2000 *Census*) and encompasses over 20 square miles. Fort Pierce serves as a transportation hub for much of Florida's southeastern coast—all the while maintaining and investing in its historic charm. Fort Pierce features a major intersection of the Florida Turnpike and I-95, rail lines, a seaport, an airport and a Foreign Trade Zone. As such, it has become a key distribution point for the state and region.





## Expanding Into The Future

The recent success of recruiting Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies to locate its headquarters in Port St. Lucie, has aided in making St. Lucie County the epicenter of the developing life science cluster in the State of Florida. With Scripps Florida to the south in Palm Beach County and Burnham Institute to the northwest in Orange County, St. Lucie County will be a hub for life science companies. As a result, the county has developed more aggressive recruitment methods in attracting life sciences, as well as many other industries in order to provide employment for all county residents.

*"The vision of Governor Jeb Bush and Senator Ken Pruitt, as well as the many County and City leaders, in moving biotechnology into Florida will transform the economy over the next two decades."*

—Dr. Richard A. Houghten, President, Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies

### St. Lucie County Major Employers

Employer	# Employed
St. Lucie School Board	4,597
Liberty Medical Supply	1,852
Wal-Mart Retail Stores	1,720
Indian River Community College	1,547
Publix	1,163
QVC	1,137
City of PSL	1,130
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center	1,082
Wal-Mart Distribution Center	1,070
Riverside Bank	1,023
St. Lucie County BOCC	982
FPL Group, Inc.	797
Harbor Federal Savings & Loan	699
Policy Studies, Inc.	377
Tropicana Products	305
Bernard Egan & Company	271

Further, St. Lucie County is ideally situated for distribution and logistics fields, reaching 82 percent of the state's population within 150 miles. Additionally, the Foreign Trade Zone and accessible transportation by sea, rail, highway and air have been instrumental in contributing to the area's ongoing development.

The figures represented below correspond to the marked expansion in local industries between 2001 and 2005, when:

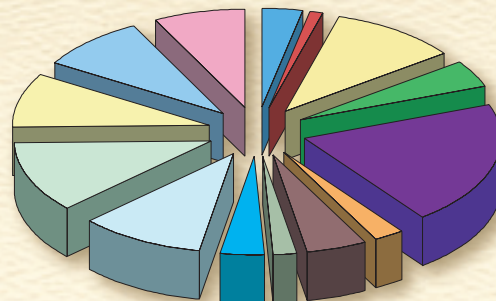
- Wholesale trade increased by 47 percent (including a 15 percent gain in 2005 alone);
- The finance and insurance industry increased by 53 percent;
- Professional and technical services increased by 38 percent (including a 14 percent gain in 2005 alone); and
- The county's information industry also increased by 27 percent in 2005, and data has also indicated a rise in the distribution, logistics and research industries.

A young and educated work force also helps propel St. Lucie County's booming economy. About 60 percent of the county's citizens are of prime working age, and the labor force has a median age of 42.

Taken together, the growth and labor data present a powerful argument for opening, relocating or expanding a business in St. Lucie County. And rest assured that the Economic Development agencies and local governments are working together to ensure an intelligent, balanced approach to growth that will preserve the community's character and natural charm while promoting prosperity.

### St. Lucie County Employment – 2005

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING (3.2)
UTILITIES (1.2)
CONSTRUCTION (10.6)
MANUFACTURING (4.4)
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE (20.2)
TRANSPORTATION & WAREHOUSING (2.5)
INFORMATION, FINANCE & INSURANCE (5.2)
REAL ESTATE (1.8)
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES (3.8)
EDUCATIONAL (10.1)
HEALTHCARE (11.8)
ARTS, RECREATION, ACCOMMODATIONS & FOOD SERVICES (8.8)
OTHER SERVICES (8.9)
GOVERNMENT (Federal, State & Local) (7.5)





# Open For Business

**W**hen opportunity knocks, wise business leaders respond quickly. Fortunately, St. Lucie County has the industrial parks, affordable homes and infrastructure needed to rapidly move your venture forward.

## Industrial Parks

St. Lucie County has a wide variety of well-located industrial parks—many with available space. Some are also located within the Central Florida Foreign Trade Zone #218, which enables companies to receive significant savings on importing, exporting and manufacturing. This federally approved area lies outside the Customs Territory of the United States. As such, businesses within the zone enjoy an expedited customs process; freedom from duties on U.S. labor, overhead and profit; the opportunity to combine foreign and domestic merchandise for re-export; reduced insurance costs; and the forbearance of country-of-origin marketing and labeling penalties.

## Welcome Home

Floridians enjoy their fun-in-the-sun lifestyles without state income tax requirements. While that alone is a significant savings, Floridians also enjoy a homestead exemption on their primary residence. This exemption reduces the property value by \$25,000 before property taxes or assessments are calculated. In addition, it prevents the assessments on a homesteaded property from rising more than 3 percent each year.

## Public Infrastructure

St. Lucie County maintains a plethora of transportation linkages. They include Florida's Turnpike, I-95, U.S. Highway 1, State Road 70, the Florida East Coast Railway, a custom-serviced international airport, three general aviation and two commercial airports within 60 miles and a deep-water port—all of which enable easy access to all St. Lucie County has to offer. The St. Lucie County International Airport is also one of the busiest general aviation airports in the state. A wide range of commercial flight options is also available using the Palm Beach International Airport, Melbourne International Airport and Orlando International Airport.

## St. Lucie County Industrial Parks (2006)

Industrial Park Name	Acreage	FTZ
Airport Industrial Park	153 Acres	FTZ
Airport West Commerce Park	150 Acres	
Kings Highway Industrial Park	100 Acres	FTZ
Crossroads Park of Commerce	200 Acres	FTZ
Fort Pierce Business Park	20 Acres	
Reserve Commerce Center	110 Acres	
St. Lucie West Commerce Park	465 Acres	FTZ
Midway Industrial Park	325 Acres	
LTC Ranch Commerce Park	247 Acres	

Please contact us for up-to-date industrial park information.

## Highways:

**North/South: I-95, Florida Turnpike, US 1**

**East/West: SR 70, SR 68**

## Rail:

**Florida East Coast, Piggyback Facilities**

## Trucking:

**At Least 15 Freight Carriers, 9 Terminals**

## Airports:

**St. Lucie County International Airport:**

**Customs and Immigration, Foreign Trade Zone**

**Palm Beach International Airport:**

**60 miles, Customs and Immigration**

## Deep-Water Ports:

**Port Fort Pierce: 28 feet**

**Port of Palm Beach: 34 feet**



## Comparisons: Cities Of Southeast Florida

	Port St. Lucie <i>St. Lucie County</i>	Fort Pierce <i>St. Lucie County</i>	W. Palm Beach <i>Palm Beach County</i>	Ft. Lauderdale <i>Broward County</i>	Miami <i>Miami-Dade County</i>	U.S. Average
<b>Cost of Living</b>						
Overall	107.2	99	134.8	130.1	136.2	100.0
Housing	113.4	90.6	183.5	170.0	186.0	100.0
Transportation	111.5	111.5	109.8	111.4	111.2	100.0
Utilities	97.1	97.1	97.2	100.4	104.9	100.0
Food	100.2	100.2	108.5	107.6	107.2	100.0
<b>Housing</b>						
Median Home Cost	\$236,400	\$189,000	\$382,500	\$354,500	\$387,800	\$208,500
Home Appreciation	26.03%	26.03%	25.82%	21.41%	21.0%	13.62%
Property Tax Rate	\$13.99	\$13.34	\$17.03	\$16.49	\$16.94	—
<b>Environment</b>						
Air Quality (100=best)	45	45	11	8	5	48
Watershed Quality (100=best)	55	55	30	50	50	55

Source: Sperling's City Profiles



St. Lucie County Ft. Pierce Branch Library, Downtown Ft. Pierce



## Learning To Succeed

**E**ducation flourishes in St. Lucie County, with a system of 41 outstanding public schools and several highly regarded postsecondary institutions.

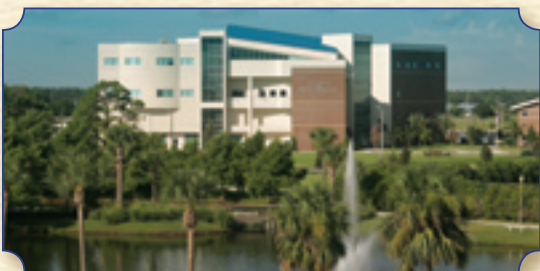
Of those district facilities 21 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, 5 high schools and 1 exceptional student school have received awards for academic excellence. And the county's district-wide career and technical education programs provide high-quality, industry-driven education for high-school students. More than 1,000 partners in education from the working world participate in special school programs to help students get ready to join the work force. And most recently, the district's superintendent Michael Lannon, was named "2007 Superintendent of the Year" by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

*"St. Lucie County Public Schools are on the rise, with the dedication of devoted school board members and employees, parents and community partners. St. Lucie County is truly a community of collaboration that understands that a top quality educational system is a strategic component in the blueprint of success."*

—Michael Lannon

*Superintendent, St. Lucie County School District*

St. Lucie County's higher education facilities provide a steady stream of qualified job candidates for area organizations. Indian River Community College (IRCC) is one of Florida's most innovative and nationally acclaimed community colleges serving a four-county community of more than 500,000 area residents. IRCC provides a wide variety of certificate and two-year degree programs designed to prepare students for transfer to a university and to produce a skilled work force. IRCC is a leader in providing the education and training needed to enhance the labor force and support and attract successful businesses.



*Indian River Community College Kight Center*

Recently named the number one community college in the nation for the use of technology, IRCC, through its \$20 million Kight Center for Emerging Technologies can provide high-quality video conferencing capabilities,

interactive instruction and training in the emerging technologies of rapid prototyping, photonics and robotics. A 50-acre Public Safety Training Complex will enhance current training for regional first responders in the skills necessary for law enforcement, corrections, fire, hazardous material response, and emergency medical services. The Complex will also offer counter-terrorism defense, disaster preparedness and response, and humanitarian relief training programs.

A partner in higher education, IRCC is a site for the Florida State University College of Medicine. This partnership brings third- and fourth-year medical students to the four-county region to intern directly with area physicians and medical personnel. A longstanding 2+2 program with Florida Atlantic University also ensures students can start here and stay here, gaining advanced degrees locally through an IRCC/FAU Joint Campus in St. Lucie West.

*"Education is a powerful pathway that leads to economic development, individual empowerment and the realization of a community's full potential."*

—Dr. Edwin R. Massey

*President, Indian River Community College*

Many exciting developments are on the postsecondary education horizon in St. Lucie County. The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences offers a wide variety of educational opportunities for students interested in agricultural research.

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) also serves the community with recognized educational excellence. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recently classified FAU as a "Research University – High Research Activity" institution, and it enjoys a partnership with IRCC and the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (HBOI). Recently, FAU has partnered with Scripps Research on their Jupiter Campus and with Torrey Pines on their Port St. Lucie Campus. Programs currently offered at the Treasure Coast Campus include Education, Nursing, Business, Computer Engineering, Social Work, Criminal Justice and Marine Sciences.

Together, St. Lucie County's wide-ranging educational institutions provide superior educational opportunities for everyone, from children first learning their ABCs to postgraduate students unlocking the secrets of life in complex biological studies. If knowledge is power, then our area is well positioned to help individuals and companies become powerful players in their field of interest, through our ongoing academic excellence.



## Research The Possibilities

From the United States Department of Agriculture to Torrey Pines and the Smithsonian Institution, many organizations have turned to St. Lucie County as a premier place to conduct fruitful research. Indeed, the county is becoming one of the Sunshine State's truly great research hubs—with plenty of room left for new scientists, thinkers and dreamers ready to make the next great leap forward in learning.

### Research Entities

**Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies**

[www.tpims.org](http://www.tpims.org)

**Florida Atlantic University Center of Excellence**

[www.floridabiotech.org](http://www.floridabiotech.org)

**Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution**

[www.hboi.edu](http://www.hboi.edu)

**Smithsonian Marine Station**

[www.sms.si.edu](http://www.sms.si.edu)

**St. Lucie County's Research and Education Park**

[www.tcerda.org](http://www.tcerda.org)

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Research Service**

[www.ars.usda.gov](http://www.ars.usda.gov)

**University of Florida**

**Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences**

[www.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu)

*"The possibilities are endless, the sky is the limit, the time is now. Let's build on what we have already accomplished and make St. Lucie County the gateway to biotechnology in Florida."* — Senator Ken Pruitt

Located in St. Lucie County, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc. (HBOI) is one of the world's leading not-for-profit oceanographic research organizations dedicated to exploring the earth's oceans, estuaries and coastal regions for the benefit of mankind. HBOI maintains a staff of over 200 employees and is involved in the research and education

in the marine sciences, marine biomedical sciences, marine mammal conservation, aquaculture and ocean engineering.

St. Lucie County's Research and Education Park forms the foundation of the area's plentiful research opportunities. Straddling the Florida Turnpike near I-95, the 1,650-acre park offers facilities that address the demands of today's biomedical, agricultural and ecological researchers and educators. The Research and Education Park also provides incoming organizations with the chance to collaborate with its two largest occupants, the USDA's Horticulture Research Laboratory and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

With a team of over 100 research scientists and support staff, the Horticulture Research Laboratory is part of the USDA's Agriculture Research Service. Three key units operate at the laboratory: The Horticulture and Breeding Unit focuses on the science of improving citrus cultivation, the Subtropical Insects Research Unit studies strategies for battling horticultural pests, and the Subtropical Plant Pathology Unit develops solutions to fight diseases that kill crops. Similarly, the research center of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, also located at the park, studies commercial and invasive plants and aquaculture.

While the Research and Education Park has already reaped great returns for the scientific and commercial communities, space is still available for organizations wishing to reach new levels of research success.

Just a short drive from the park is the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce. Part of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, this field station studies the ecological richness of the Indian River Lagoon and Florida's east central coast and draws more than 100 scientists every year from around the globe. Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution and the Smithsonian have resided in St. Lucie County for over 35 years.

## Accessible Technology For Forward-Thinking Firms

Access to technology is crucial to supporting a knowledge-based economy. The county has black fiber strategically located throughout the community as well as Lamda Rail along the Turnpike for university locations. High-speed DSL lines are also available within St. Lucie County. These equip area businesses with state-of-the-art communication links to a new world of possibilities.

Public computer resources in St. Lucie County include computers at the Workforce Development Office, which

can be used for training purposes, as well as the labs at The FAU Center of Excellence at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Indian River Community College and the community's five—soon to be six—public libraries.

St. Lucie County also gains access to technologies through the sharing of intellectual property and techniques from one company to another. Networking and collaborations by companies in similar industries facilitate learning new technologies and processes.



## A History Of Entrepreneurial Excellence

Entrepreneurs have long called St. Lucie County home. It began with Major James Paine, who in the 1860s homesteaded the area now known as St Lucie Village. After the Civil War, he began to rent rooms to visitors for \$3 a day or \$15 a week. The area became so popular for its abundant fishing and hunting that Republican Senator Matthew Quay formed the St. Lucie Club, which was later frequented by many political giants.

In 1924, Alto Adams moved to Ft. Pierce and founded Adams Ranch in western St. Lucie County. Alto Adams has had a distinguished legal career, serving twice as chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Since 1951, he has concentrated on the flourishing family business of cattle and citrus farming.

Rupert Koblegard's family moved to St. Lucie Village in 1906. Although he became a real estate broker in 1923, residents remember him most for building, along with his father and brother, the 1,200-seat, multipurpose Sunrise Theatre on Second Avenue in Ft. Pierce. Today, this newly restored national landmark is listed in the National Park Service's National List of Historic Places, and offers the community a

variety of entertainment—from rock concerts to operas to comedy shows.



*Sunrise Theatre, Downtown Ft. Pierce*

St. Lucie County's entrepreneurial history continues to shine brightly, lighting the way to a leading-edge future. The Adams Ranch leads in conservation practices for our growing county; the Sunrise Theatre serves as a local historical and cultural focal point; and the Smithsonian and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution have played a pivotal role in establishing St. Lucie County as a burgeoning research community.

## Where The Past Presents Endless Fascination

With a history dating back to 1565 when Spanish explorers christened the territory "Santa Lucia," St. Lucie County's past is a rich tapestry of people and places that the area's array of unique museums celebrates.

Located along the Indian River Lagoon, the St. Lucie County Historical Museum features silver and gold from a fleet of 11 Spanish ships that sank in 1715. That and other sunken treasure helped the area earn the reputation as Florida's "Treasure Coast." The museum also features equipment from turn-of-the-century industries that helped shape St. Lucie County, such as fishing, pineapple farming, cattle and citrus. Also on site you can find a 1907 settler's home and a general store.

Additionally, St. Lucie County has a rich Native American history from Seminole and Ais Indian tribes. Displays at the historical museum include artifacts from the 1838 Seminole War and an encampment featuring a thatched chickee, hand-carved canoe and patchwork clothing.



*Downtown Ft. Pierce*



*Downtown Ft. Pierce*



## A Rich World Of Natural Experiences

**A**longside St. Lucie County's sophisticated research centers and bold business opportunities lies an unspoiled natural environment ideal for exploration.

Visitors from around the globe enjoy The Manatee Observation and Education Center in Fort Pierce, where manatees can be seen any time of the year, especially in winter. The center also offers visitors several exhibits and workshops, as well as boat tours of the picturesque Indian River Lagoon. Aside from learning about the birds, fish, dolphins and manatees that may be seen on this one-hour tour, visitors will discover the lagoon's ecology and its history.

Locals and guests alike also enjoy learning about the Indian River Lagoon and its habitat at the St. Lucie County Marine Center, which features the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit. The center opened in 2001, and it boasts six living exhibits, each featuring a unique marine ecosystem.

Nature lovers will appreciate over 7,000 acres of environmentally protected lands available for nature

viewing and hiking seven days a week. Some even offer cycling, canoeing and kayaking opportunities. The Oxbow is but one example of our many gems. At the Oxbow you have 3 miles of trails, a canoe dock with available tours, boardwalks, a nature center and observation towers.

Another unforgettable experience awaits at Frederick Douglass Memorial Park on South Hutchinson Island, where visitors can take advantage of one of the few sites in the state where beach horseback riding is allowed.

The River Lilly Cruise explores the jungle-like backwaters of the authentic, natural Florida on the north fork of the St. Lucie River. Depending on the season, you may see nesting birds, river otters and alligators. All of these sights are perfect for the young and the young at heart.

Perhaps St. Lucie County's most beloved natural amenity is our more than 20 miles of unspoiled emerald beaches. Uncrowded public access points all along the coast make it easy to swim, bask, surf, fish, look for shells or read a paperback to the sound of gently lapping waves.





## Activities For Everyone To Enjoy

From the subtleties of literature to the bat-cracking excitement of professional baseball, St. Lucie County presents a broad range of cultural and sports experiences.

Fort Pierce also was home to a literary giant and various renowned artists. Acclaimed African-American author Zora Neale Hurston lived out the final years of her life here. Following the Dust Track Trail will give you a glimpse of her time with us. A yearly cultural festival in her honor, Zora Fest, is held in late April. Renowned artist A. E. "Beanie" Backus' home and studio currently serve as Fort Pierce's Main Street offices. A gallery located near his home and studio gives Backus fans an opportunity to enjoy his art. Also featured at the A. E. Backus Gallery are several works by the highly acclaimed Highwaymen.

Catch a ballet, concert or an opera at the historic Sunrise Theatre in downtown Fort Pierce. Built in 1923, this 1,200-seat theatre has undergone substantial renovation. Today, it is full of life again, featuring such singers as Dionne Warwick, such comedians as Brett Butler, the opera *La Bohème* and the ballet of Gisselle.



Golfers delight in the area's acclaimed courses year round. *Golf Digest* magazine recently ranked Fort Pierce the eighth best place in Florida for golfers to live. The area boasts 12 public and semiprivate courses. The PGA Golf Club and Village in Port St. Lucie is the first PGA facility open to the public and the most advanced golf and practice center in the country. Recently, two of their courses underwent a multimillion dollar renovation.

This facility alone features a learning center, educational center, historical center and golf club along with 72 holes of golf. The 35-acre learning center, which *Golf World* says, "might be the best practice facility in the world," has driving ranges, putting greens, chipping areas and nine different types of bunkers. Other courses nearby include Ballantrae, Fairwinds, Gator Trace, Club Med Resort, Edward G. Enns Indian Hills and the Saints of Port St. Lucie, just to name a few. All of this provides you ample opportunities to tee up in our tropical paradise.



Baseball fans cry, "Take me out to the ball game," in St. Lucie County, the spring training home of the New York Mets. When spring training is over, you can catch the St. Lucie Mets battling other local teams at our state-of-the-art facility, Tradition Field.

Anglers come from the world over to cast themselves into offshore fishing from charters at the Fort Pierce City Marina and other local marinas. Whether it's fishing, diving for sunken Spanish galleons, snorkeling or just sightseeing, there is a perfect charter for every occasion.





# Business Incentives: Even More Reasons To Discover St. Lucie

**T**he State of Florida, St. Lucie County and local municipalities are working together to expand the economic base in Florida. This collaboration continues to strengthen St. Lucie County's position as a pro-business community. While looking to the future and preparing for ongoing economic vitality, the county is also investing heavily to ensure our local businesses' financial future. St. Lucie County's Business Retention and Expansion Program visits with businesses already established within the county. The program endeavors to keep businesses successful. We want you to start or expand a business in St. Lucie County. And it shows. Take a look at the innovative ways in which we help you succeed:

## County and City Incentives

- **Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program**

*New business relocations and qualifying expansions of existing companies are invited to apply for tax exemptions within a certain amount of time. Qualifications are based on the amount of new jobs created that pay more than the average county wage. Abatements are available from the county and both cities;*

- **Job Growth Investment Grant**

*This provides county assistance with expansion or relocation expenses for businesses that create a minimum of ten new jobs that pay more than the average county wage;*

- **Fort Pierce Enterprise Zone**

*The City of Fort Pierce provides tax refunds for companies that will relocate within the Enterprise Zone. Credits include sales tax credit for job creation, corporate income tax credits, sales tax refunds on building materials and equipment and property tax credits;*

- **Port St. Lucie CRA**

*Companies that locate and fit into Port St. Lucie's Community Redevelopment Agency's Master Plan can receive several incentives when helping develop the city's burgeoning downtown;*

- **Fast Track Permitting**

*Businesses can save time and money by using expedited permitting through the county's One Stop Permit Shop at:*

[www.stlucieco.gov/ce/permits/permits.asp](http://www.stlucieco.gov/ce/permits/permits.asp)

## State of Florida Incentives

- **Tax Advantages**

*The State of Florida's tax incentives include exemptions for the first \$5,000 of taxable income, no property tax on business inventories, no state-level property tax, low 5.5 percent corporate income tax for C-corporations, no sales or use tax on cogeneration of electricity and more;*

- **Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program**

*This program provides an inducement for target industries to locate new facilities in Florida or expand existing facilities. If approved by the state, the applicant may receive refunds on the taxes it pays;*

- **Sales/Use Tax Exemptions**

*Special exemptions can be received on machinery, electricity, pollution control equipment and other items essential to new business operations;*

- **Silicon Technology Sales and Use Tax Refund**

*Companies in the silicon technology industry that are approved by the state can receive a tax refund; and*

- **Florida First Capital Finance Corporation**

*Many businesses have benefited from state SBA loans and the Florida Recycling Loan Program. These loans are received through the combined cooperation of a state representative and a local bank official.*





## Contact Us To Learn More

If you have questions, need guidance or would just like to find out more about the business benefits of St. Lucie County, please do not hesitate to contact our team of economic development specialists.



**Economic Development  
St. Lucie County**

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